

M - 139,739

S - 246,007

AUG 15 1972

Author Reveals Secret Papers Open To Public

By KIP COOPER
Military Affairs Editor
The San Diego Union

Top secret government papers are available to anyone who wants to read them in the libraries of major universities, a former CIA employee said here yesterday in an interview.

R. Harris Smith, author of the newly published book "OSS — The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency," said there are "hundreds of boxes of the stuff" at Stanford University where he did some of his research.

He said he saw some documents he considered so sensitive he suggested they be taken out of the public files and properly guarded.

"An enormous amount of top secret and secret information has been deposited in university libraries by former employees of the government," he said.

"You can walk in and read it, anybody can," he said.

RECENT REPORTS

Smith said much of the material was taken by people after World War II, but that some of it is less than 20 years old and "some of it is very recent." Some of it includes recent CIA reports on the Chiang Kai-shek government, he said.

"They (government employees) just stuffed the material in their cars and took it home with them," he said. "Later, they left it with their papers in bequests to various universities. There's a lot of it floating around. And it still has top secret and secret stamps on it."

Smith said he used classified papers from "five very large boxes" from collections of papers in the Stanford University library.

Some of the collections Smith credits in his book as sources of information are Charles W.

LEAVES CIA

Now a lecturer in political science at the University of California, Smith resigned from the Central Intelligence Agency in May, 1968 after serving a year as an analyst.

He said the freewheeling activities of the OSS, in which insubordination was a way of life, undoubtedly contributed to French resistance to the U.S. role in Vietnam today.

"The OSS team in Hanoi in 1945 were anti-colonialists who felt that Ho Chi Minh deserved U.S. support," he said. "Some of the French intelligence agents there who were snubbed by the OSS then became high officials in the De Gaulle government and they have never forgotten the OSS role there."

Smith said there is a "very common belief" in Washington that French intelligence agents "are supporting the North Vietnamese" in the current conflict.

P. Cooper, Kip

P. Smith, R. Harris

See 4.01.2 OSS: The Secret
History of America's
First CIA

CIA 3.03.1